Abstract

Mathematical Modelling and Analysis of "Presidential Challenges and Failures in Latin America"

Naokatsu Uetani

In this article, I use the expected utility and game theoretical models to elucidate the causal logic of "the challenge to presidents / the presidential failures" which frequently occurred in Latin America during the first half of the 1990s and the 2000s. In this way, I attempt to mediate between various arguments concerning this political phenomenon. While paying attention to the five points indicated by these models, I confirm their accuracy based on three "challenge / failure" cases in (1997, 2000, and 2005). It was confirmed that it is not only the strength of the protest movement but the fluctuating expected utility of the pivotal player in the assembly that affected the outcome of the "challenge" and the type of "failure" experienced by the president (dismissal or coup d'etat). In other words, any analysis of the challenge / failure of the president is insufficient unless we take into account the interaction between "president - assembly relations" and "the protest movement and/or particular social movement organization" rather than analyzing either in isolation from the other.

Abstract

Participatory Governance and the Political Participation of Poor Elderly People in Brazil: The Municipal Housing Council and a Social Movement of Poor Elderly People in São Paulo

Ryohei Konta

Recently, in Brazil, a type of participatory governance has spread mainly at the local government level. In this way, socially excluded people are able to participate more directly and thus satisfy their interests. In many cases, social groups correlated strongly with the poverty, including poor elderly people, participate in it through collective actions such as social movements. However, the agency of poor elderly people has been almost unrecognized in the social structure of participatory governance or in other issues, except in the case of pensions, because their social presence is usually considered to be very passive.

Regarding participatory governance in Brazil and the unrecognized agency of poor elderly people, this paper addresses the research question of whether or not poor elderly people are able to participate in politics through the system of participatory governance which is presently being implemented in Brazil. In this paper, I analyze the agency of poor elderly people who are trying through a social movement to resolve housing problems, which are problems that are not just peculiar to elderly people. I focus on the interaction between the social structure of participatory governance and the agency of the poor elderly people. In this regard, the Municipal Housing Council as an instrument of participatory governance, a housing project exclusively for poor elderly people called "The Village of the Elderly," and a social movement of poor elderly people named "Garmic," which deals with housing problems in São Paulo, are adopted as case studies.

Abstract

Creation of a New "Local Cultural Resource" and the Reinforcement of Ethnic Identity: A Case Study of Tourism Development in a Bai Village in Heqing County, Yunnan Province, China

Naoya Amemori

This study focuses on tourism development among the Bai people in Heqing County, Yunnan Province, China. After the implementation of economic reforms in 1978 and for the development of tourism, the Bai began producing silver and copper handcrafts to increase their income. This study considers the changes in their identity that were brought about by this increase. Traditionally, the Bai's non-agricultural activities involved, repairing old cauldrons and kettles. China's economic reforms facilitated handcraft production, and the increased income enabled the Bai to sell their handcrafts to other ethnic minorities like the Tibetans, Dai and Miao.

At the end of the 1990s, the Yunnan provincial government initiated tourism development in the villages. A pioneer began producing silver and copper handcrafts in the village, giving them a "traditional" feel. The villagers infused "tradition" into their products, thus improving the image of their village. In the way, they succeeded in differentiating their village from others, as well as increasing their income. They also reconstructed a unique identity for their village.

Traditional-style houses are important to the Bai. They have used their profits for the construction of excellent Bai houses. In doing this, they have maintained their village's strong identity, while also reinforcing their own personal ethnic identity.